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NEWS RELEASE

MEAD CORPORATION FOUNDATION SUPPORTS DAYTON PEACE PRIZE

DAYTON, Ohio — The Mead Corporation Foundation will fund the inaugural \$25,000 Dayton Peace Prize, an international award that will honor a peacemaker.

The Dayton Peace Prize is the capstone of fifth-anniversary events that commemorate the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords.

The Dayton Peace Prize will be given to an individual or organization contributing extraordinarily to the peaceful reconstruction of a society or societies torn by war, according to R. Bruce Hitchner, chair of the Dayton Peace Accords Project and director of the University of Dayton's Center for International Programs. The recipient must designate the \$25,000 prize to a post-war reconstruction program. The winner will receive the award on Saturday, Nov. 18, at an invitation-only black-tie dinner at the U.S. Air Force Museum.

"Our vision for this 21st-century prize is for it to become comparable to the Nobel Prize," Hitchner said. "We believe peace prizes need to focus on rebuilding after conflicts have ended. The Dayton Peace Prize will be the cornerstone of what the Dayton Peace Accords Project does going forward. The Balkans will be the focus the first year, but after that we will target those who are building peace anywhere in the world. It could be Northern Ireland or other regions where there's an unresolved conflict and people are working to build peace."

Hitchner called Mead's commitment "very generous and in line with the company's reputation as a successful business and involved and caring corporate citizen."

Last year, Mead and its foundation provided more than \$6.1 million in charitable support and supported the 1999 Global Youth Peace and Tolerance Awards. The awards brought attention and recognition to the contributions of children making a difference in their communities by furthering the virtues of peace and tolerance. Seven youth were selected through international youth organizations and flown from their countries to the United Nations headquarters where they were featured guests at the 1999 Wright-Dunbar Lifetime Achievement Awards gala.

"We are very honored to be a part of this first Peace Prize," said Ron Budzik, Mead's vice president of government affairs. "We are hopeful that the efforts of the Dayton Peace Accords

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Project will call the world's attention to resolving global conflict and healing communities."

The recipient of the Dayton Peace Prize must use the award to support programs or initiatives that contribute to post-war reconstruction. These may include support for:

- reintegration of civilian victims of war back into society;
- civic education and democratization;
- economic development; or
- resolution of conflict through constructive dialogue, arts and culture

The awarding of the Dayton Peace Prize is the capstone of the Nov. 16-19 "The Dayton Peace Accords Project: Building Lasting Peace in the Balkans," an international conference that will be held mostly at the Hope Hotel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The fifth anniversary of the brokering of peace in Bosnia marks a pivotal time. It will follow closely on the heels of the recent overthrow of Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia and the U.S. presidential election.

This year's events also promise to be the largest gathering of international figures here since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords — including the return of Richard Holbrooke, who brokered peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Holbrooke is now the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

"For the first time, the U.S. State Department has sanctioned the meetings," Hitchner said. "The Dayton Peace Accords Project is now a registered non-government organization engaged in grassroots diplomacy. Within 30 days after the meetings, we will offer policy recommendations to the new U.S. administration defining America's role in the Balkans."

The Dayton Peace Accords Project is sponsoring the events in collaboration with the University of Dayton's Center for International Programs, the Wright Memorial Chapter of the Air Force Association, the FAMA Foundation of Sarajevo, the International Crisis Group, the European Stability Initiative, the United States Institute of Peace, the New Atlantic Initiative and the Public International Law and Policy Group. For background information, see <http://www.udayton.edu/~cip/>.

The Mead Corporation is one of the leading North American producers of coated paper, specialty paper, coated paperboard and consumer and office products, a world leader in multiple packaging and a producer of high-quality corrugating medium. In management of the company's more than two million acres of forests, Mead is committed to practicing principled forest stewardship and using resources in a responsible and sustainable manner. For additional information about Mead, visit the company's Web site at www.mead.com.

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